

**REMARKS**

Receipt of the Office Action of November 28, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

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Claims 20 - 23, 28, 30 and 31 have been re-examined and now finally rejected as follows: claim 28 under 35 USC 102(e) over Sunshine et al; claims 20 - 23 and 30 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Sunshine et al in view of Brobei; and claim 31 as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Sunshine et al in view of Boehr et al.

The invention described and claimed here is believed to patentably distinguish over the references noted in the final rejection so that the rejections are respectfully traversed.

The examiner's discussion of Sunshine et al in rejecting claim 28 suggests a misunderstanding of the present invention. Sunshine et al, as seen in Fig. 2, lacks a central transmission line which is separate from the selection lines. See our Fig. 1. The central transmission line 4 is connected between the central unit 1 and the measurement modules 2, and the selection lines 3 are connected between the central unit 1 and the measurement modules 2. The two lines are separate and transfer different data. In Sunshine et al, the examiner appears to be saying that the central transmission lines and the selection lines are the same. One does not see the two separate lines. Without separate lines, Sunshine et al cannot anticipate claim 28. To insure clarity on this point, claim 28 has been further amended to emphasize that the central transmission line and the selection lines are separate. Actually this fact should already be understood from claim 28 as formulated prior to the present amendment. Nevertheless, the further amendment removes any doubt.

In addition to the present further amendment to claim 28, claim 28 also states that the central transmission line transmits a data signal whereas the selection lines are used by the central unit to select a measurement module. The signals are not the same. This distinction cannot be maintained by Sunshine et al.

Regarding claim 30, Sunshine et al alone and in combination with Brobeil cannot achieve the operating method defined by the steps recited. To further clarify the method, claims 21 and 22 have been combined with claim 30. Neither reference teaches selecting a measurement module by the central unit over a selection line and transmitting data from the central unit over a central transmission line to all measurement modules, wherein the measurement module only utilizes the data sent from the central unit, when it has been selected.

Regarding claim 31, recites the feature whereby a selection of a measurement module "a plurality of times within one cycle." The examiner suggests that Boehr et al teaches this feature at paragraph 29, lines 5 - 7. Applicant cannot agree. Lines 5 - 7 of paragraph 29 teaches "...exposing the d sensors two or more times to a plurality of known analytes and measuring the response from each sensor.." How does exposure to different analytes equate to a selection process, which is what claim 31 is defining? It is not evident to applicant.

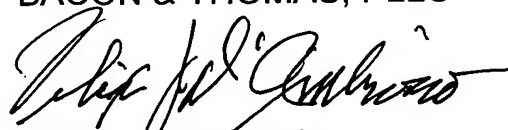
The arrangement illustrated in Fig. 2 embodies both aspects of the invention so that anyone skilled in the art can see the distinction of the invention over Sunshine et al and the other references of record

The examiner is therefore urged to enter the above amendments to the claims and find claims 28, 30, 31, 20 and 23 allowable. Alternatively, the examiner is urged to enter the above amendments to the claims for purposes of appeal.

U.S. Pat. Appl. 10/510,072

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Respectfully submitted,  
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felix J. D'Ambrosio', written in a cursive style.

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